

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES.

MAY 8, 1860.—Ordered to be printed.

Mr. THOMPSON made the following

REPORT.

[To accompany Bill S. 430.]

*The Committee on Pensions, to whom was referred the petition of Reuben Clough for an invalid pension, having had the same under consideration, beg leave to report:*

That the petitioner was wounded at the battle of Chippewa, on the 5th July, 1814, and that the wound was of such a nature, as shown by the testimony of witnesses who have known him both before and since that event, as to impair his mind and his ability to earn a living. It is also the opinion of the surgeons that "the inflammation which would probably result from such a gun-shot wound might, and probably would, impair materially the mental faculties, by deranging the functions of the brain."

The petitioner, it would appear, was placed on the pension rolls of the army on the 29th day of December, 1848, at the rate of eight dollars a month, for total disability. The application now is for a pension from the date of the wound he received on the 5th July, 1814, to the 29th December, 1848; and he states, as the reason for asking these arrears, that, in consequence of being so feeble and poor, he was not able to complete the testimony before the last-mentioned date.

In this statement he is sustained by the testimony of John W. Smith, who states "he has been acquainted with him for more than thirty years, and knows that he has made several efforts to get his testimony prepared within the last twenty years, but failed, on account of his extreme poverty and great deficiency of intellect. Once he procured his testimony in part; but his case was rejected and the testimony lost; and that said Clough is very poor, and quite the wreck of a man, both in body and mind."

Under the above circumstances, as the committee believe that the omission to complete the testimony until 1848 may be fairly attributed to want of means and want of intellect, and not to inexcusable neglect on his part to do so, therefore report a bill for his relief.

